

**VILLAGE OF GROSSE POINTE SHORES, A MICHIGAN CITY
MINUTES OF THE
MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL
TUESDAY, JANUARY 18, 2022 – 7:00 P.M.**

- 1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER** - The monthly meeting of the City Council of the Village of Grosse Pointe Shores, a Michigan City was held on Tuesday, January 18, 2022, at the Municipal Building. The meeting was called to order at 7:00pm by Mayor Kedzierski.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

3. ROLL CALL – Clerk Bruce Nichols

Present: Mayor Thaddeus Kedzierski, Robert H. Barrette, John Dakmak, Danielle Gehlert, John T. Seago

Absent: Sandra Cavataio, Donn Schroder (Excused on unanimously carried motion by Barrette and supported by Gehlert)

Also present: City Clerk Bruce Nichols
Finance Officer/Treasurer Candice Giles
City Manager Stephen Poloni
Public Works Director Mike Way
Public Safety Director Ken Werenski

- 4. SETTING OF THE AGENDA** – The Swearing in of Public Safety Officers was to be conducted before all other business of the Council.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE DECEMBER 14, 2021 REGULAR MEETING

City Clerk Bruce Nichols indicated the minutes of the December 2021 meeting did not contain Council Member Dakmaks' comments at the end of the December meeting. The omission was corrected with the City Clerk reading the changed portion of the minutes into the record.

On motion by Council Member Dakmak, seconded by Council Member Barrette, and carried unanimously, it was resolved that the minutes were approved as amended.

6. RECEIVE AND FILE VARIOUS BOARDS, COMMITTEES & COMMISSIONS MINUTES

On motion by Council Member Barrette, seconded by Council Member Gehlert, and carried unanimously, it was resolved that the minutes were received and filed.

7. PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS – None

8. SWEARING IN OF PUBLIC SAFETY OFFICERS- Derrick Wood & Paul Morang

After an introduction of the new Public Safety Officers by Chief Kenneth Werenski, Mayor Kedzierski administered the Oath of Office to Public Safety Officers Derrick Wood and Paul Morang.

9. REPORTS BY CHAIRPERSONS OF BOARDS, COMMITTEES AND COMMISSIONS

A. Budget and Finance – Finance Officer/Treasurer Candice Giles

1. Approval of Bills - On motion by Council Member Gehlert, seconded by Council Member Barrette, and carried unanimously, it was resolved that the bills were approved for payment.
2. Review of Financial Statements - Finance Officer/Treasurer Candice Giles pointed out a new vehicle purchase and actuarial fees are shown in the financial report. A contribution from an anonymous donor is reflected in the payments for the cost of the municipal calendar. \$137,500 in AAR funds have been received so far this year. More AAR funds will be available under more relaxed standards and reduced reporting requirements.
3. Finance Committee Report - The Finance Committee did not meet during the previous month.

B. Public Safety – Chief Kenneth Werenski

During the swearing-in ceremony of the new Public Safety Officers, Chief Werenski described the high levels of achievement and competency of our newest Officers, Derrick Wood and Paul Morang. He also reported the addition of the new officers will alleviate the overtime burden on the other Public Safety Officers.

C. Public Works – Director Mike Way.

Director Way said his department was recently short on staff. Now, the Public Works Department is at full staff. The ice rink opened on January 7 and has been getting considerable use. The new Ford F250 truck is being outfitted with a snowplow. The annual equipment maintenance programs which are performed during the winter months are beginning. Lawn maintenance equipment has all been serviced and winterized.

D. Parks Committee – City Manager Steve Poloni reported staffing procedures for next summer are already underway. The 4th of July Celebration at Osius Park will continue next summer. Problems regarding standing water at Osius Park were discussed at the Parks Committee meeting.

E. Harbor Committee –Council Liaison John Seago reported the first deposits on the Marina wells have been received. There has been a 3% increase in Marina dockage fees.

F. Infrastructure Report – Council Liaison Robert Barrette reported that no meeting was held during the previous month.

G. GPSIF – Council Liaison Danielle Gehlert reviewed the minutes of the last meeting of the Foundation. During the previous year, the Foundation paid for the replacement of 20 trees. Trustee positions within the Foundation are available to suitable candidates. Future projects of the Foundation were discussed, which include the waterfront outlooks. The Foundation now has a website.

H. Communications Committee – Council Liaison Danielle Gehlert reported a Communications Committee Meeting was held on January 13, 2022. The new municipal website roll out will occur in about eight weeks. The city's Facebook page is working very well. The city newsletter is emailed to 1080 residents each month. The next meeting of the Communications Committee is in April 2022. The municipal calendar was printed at a cost of \$7000, which was made possible by an anonymous resident's donation.

I. Legal Report – City Attorney Brian Renaud was unable to attend the meeting. In his absence, City Manager Steve Poloni read the City Attorney's list the services provided during the previous month: Efforts were expended related to the city's response to subpoenas, attention was given to the sign ordinance, consultation regarding the Open Meeting Act, review and comments on a seawall matter, a municipal matter, and a class action regarding a flooding event.

J. Manager's Report – City Manager Steve Poloni reviewed what has occurred during his first year as City Manager. There was no Financial Officer when Mr. Poloni arrived. It took an extraordinary effort to pull a group together to get the finances in order. Finance Officer/Treasurer Candice Giles was located and recruited. The budget needed to be balanced. Three (3) employee contract negotiations were completed and signed. Finance Officer/Treasurer Candice Giles restructured the municipal water bills into a more understandable mode.

Mr. Poloni also stated that water bills are the number one complaint received by the administration. More increases of water and sewage bills are coming up. Grosse Pointe Shores is a small community, with less residents to spread the fixed costs of water among. Grosse Pointe Shores has the unique position of using water at the most expensive time periods. Water usage is down in the winter when many residents have gone south to get away from the cold. Water usage goes way up in the summer when residents irrigate their lawns and gardens. The time of day, and the season of the year when water is used has a direct effect on its cost. Mr. Poloni suggested that Council take a serious look at restricting the hours when landscape watering would be allowed. He was certain that restrictions on landscape watering times would reduce the city's water rates from GLWA.

Other events that occurred during the previous year included the 4th of July Celebration, a bond authorization for several large infrastructure projects, smoke testing of the municipal drain system, the application for permits for the Lakeshore water main projects, commencement of the bonding process, an application for a grant of \$754,000 for seawall work, a loan was secured for the replacement of DPW and fire

department vehicles, the Osius Park parking lot was repaved, new drainage has been installed at the Pavilion, the city has a new municipal website, the Marina decking has been replaced, and the Communications Committee has made great progress with the municipal Facebook Page. A list of 25 items that the City Manager would like City Council to consider has been drafted.

Mayor Kedzierski commented on the number of projects completed successfully during the previous year.

Public Works Dir. Mike Way says our water bills from GLWA are very high in the summer and low in the winter. The city seems to use a great deal of water during high-rate periods and very little during low-rate periods. The municipality should reverse the process of using water during peak billing times and increase the use during low-rate periods. Director Way believes if we can get the peak hour usage down, our water rates from GLWA will go down. He also suggested that Council consider the ordinance restricting landscape watering during certain times. Our current water rate negotiations will be for the next five years. It is advisable to take whatever steps are needed to reduce the rate immediately.

10. OLD BUSINESS - None

11. NEW BUSINESS

A. Wayne County Annual Action Plan-PY2022 CDBG Application & Allocation

Council Member Barrette described the uses of the CBDG grant to Council.

On motion by Council Member Dakmak, seconded by Council Member Gehlert, and carried unanimously, it was resolved that the Village of Grosse Pointe Shores' CDBG application is hereby authorized to be submitted to Wayne County for inclusion in the Wayne County Annual Action Plan to the US Department of Housing and Urban Development; and City Manager Steve Poloni is hereby authorized to execute all documents, agreements, or contracts which result from this application to Wayne County.

12. PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS - None

13. COUNCIL MEMBERS' COMMENTS

Council Member Seago congratulated City Manager Poloni on a very successful first year on the job.

14. MAYOR'S COMMENTS – Mayor Kedzierski

Mayor Kedzierski commented on the passing of resident Glenn Peters. Mr. Peters served on City Council for six years. A Town Hall Meeting is scheduled for February 12, 2022 and the Mayor looks forward to meeting and hearing from the residents.

15. NOTE DATES OF FUTURE CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS (Tues, 2/15/22-7pm & Tues, 3/15/22 -7pm)

16. NOTE DATES OF FUTURE TOWN HALL MEETINGS - (Sat, 2/12/22 10am)

17. ADJOURNMENT

On motion by Council Member Seago, seconded by Council Member Barrette, and carried unanimously, the meeting was adjourned at 8:05 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Bruce R. Nichols
City Clerk